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AFRICA RIPE FOR AMERICAN CIVILIZATION.

BY G. W. SAMSON, D. D.

At the farewell banquet given lately in New York to Professor Tyndall, Dr. Draper, eminent in physical science, mentioned, as one of the most striking examples of American civilization, this: "We have taken the woolly-headed African, and in a generation or two have purged him of his ancestral paganism, and Darwinized him into a respectable citizen."

The Hon. Mr. Evarts had quoted in his introductory address Dr. Johnson's remark, that "Men in ordinary business find a hundred occasions to use principles of intellectual and moral science, where they find one occasion demanding knowledge of physical science." Dr. Draper's statement recognized the important fact, that the mission of the people of the United States is to train men of all nations for the spiritual advancement of all mankind.

There was a meaning in some of David's, Isaiah's, and Christ's statements, which events now occurring have developed. "The handful of corn in the top of a mountain," that will scatter seed over the earth; "the nation born in a day;" the "leaven that must leaven the whole lump;"—are figures alike of the certainty and of the rapidity with which moral causes operate to redeem individuals and nations. Philanthropy and Christianity cannot wait the slow operation of physical causes in the elevation of the Asiatic and the African brought to our shores; but the living mind and heart, guided by wisdom and love, has in a few brief years transformed the rude barbarian into a messenger of good tidings, burning with ardor to carry the blessings he has found to his wretched

fellow-countrymen. So is it with Africa and her sons: and the man of physical science, as clearly as the Christian philanthropist, sees *how* the prophecy is to be fulfilled, "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God."

History is philosophy teaching by example: its records furnish the facts which permit the inductions in every department of science. Explorations into Africa have been favorite with adventurers of every age and land; and while curiosity has animated, and science has stimulated, and commerce has fostered these explorations, philanthropy has meekly followed up the road thus opened, and settled down for her moral conquest. Herodotus tells us of Egyptian, Cyrenean, and Phœnician coastings along, and even of one circumnavigation of, Africa, as also of interior expeditions to the very heart of the Continent; but the brightest record he has left is the mention of an Egyptian colony in Ethiopia, whose influence was great on the advancement of the people. The Hebrew historians, from Moses to Josephus, dwell on the military and commercial intercourse kept up through Egypt, the Red Sea, and Arabia, by three routes, with Central Africa. Bunsen has done a great service to modern historical research, by confirming and illustrating this history. To this day the boast of the Abyssinian kings, that they are descended from Solomon through the Queen of Sheba, is a tradition of moral influences early coming from the Hebrew people: and all give point to the hingeing word in King David's prophecy, "Ethiopia shall *soon* stretch out her hands unto God." Under the first Roman emperor, Diodorus and Strabo report Grecian expeditions sent to the head-waters of the Nile; and Ptolemy's Geography, written in the first century of the Christian era, traces its sources to the lakes, about ten degrees south of the equator, where Livingstone is now engaged. But the most impressive memorial of Grecian influence is the fact, stated by the earliest historian of the Apostolic Age, that the treasurer of the Candace, Queen of Ethiopia, was reading in the Greek language the translation, made under the Ptolemies of the Old Testament Scriptures; whose prophecies, confirmed by the New Testament, have made Abyssinia to this day a Christian nation. Yet later, the Arabian historians tell us how, not only the spirit of adventure and the

greed of traffic, but, much more, zeal for "the faith," impelled the followers of Mohammed, from the eighth to the tenth centuries, to overrun not only all Northern, but Central Africa: so that the chief opposers of Mungo Park along the Niger, of Livingstone on the Southern and Western Coast, of Baker and Livingstone in the centre, and now of Sir Bartle Frere in South-eastern Africa, have proved to be Mohammedan bigots. If ancient Egyptian arts, Hebrew law, Grecian literature, and Mohammedan propagandism have permeated the tribes of the African Continent, there is reason to believe that the leaven of Christian truth can pass along the same open lines, and have a more subduing influence.

If these facts of the past give promise for the redemption of Africa, the present aspect of the entire Continent claims special consideration. Steady, though slow in her movement, England has drawn a complete cordon around the sea-girt Continent. Within ten years she has passed from Sierra Leone, south of Liberia, and has seized the Island of Lagos, which commands the whole region along the Niger; and from Cape Town and Natal she has penetrated to the interior, taking forcible possession of the gold fields of the Southeast. From Zanzibar, expedition after expedition is sent to Livingstone. From the Straits, at the mouth of the Red Sea, her arms have penetrated and subdued Abyssinia. From Nubia, along the Upper Nile, Sir Samuel Baker, with his wife as his moral pledge of success, with fifteen hundred armed men as a guard, with three small steamers and other supplies packed on bullocks, is making his way, despite reports of his death, to a central point, where a military commercial station, like the Calcutta of a century ago, is to be planted. Roads are being laid out, pointing to this centre, from Lagos on the west, Natal on the south, through Abyssinia on the east, and along the Nile to the north, by which the commerce of the Continent must be controlled; and meanwhile English capitalists are loaning the American settlement of Liberia funds to open interior roads. Along these channels other influences than those of gold are moving; for Livingstone is still, as in his youth, a Christian missionary, having a loftier ambition than any earthly.

Meanwhile, too, the old rivalry between French and Eng-

lish enterprise, whose struggle was seen in Canada two centuries ago, then in India,—that rivalry which, in Africa, has compromised the interests of the Suez Canal, has caused the Abyssinian war, and is now attempting, though only for a time, the defeat of Sir Bartle Frere's mission to Zanzibar to suppress the slave-trade,—this rivalry is rousing Christian nations to the demands of humanity towards Africa. Just as the influence of English commerce, conquest, and diplomacy has opened India and China to both the vices and the philanthropy of England and America, so must it be with Africa. The suppression of the slave-trade on the West Coast has only turned it back, into the channels where for ages it had flowed, northward over the Desert of Zahara, and eastward to Asia. Christian philanthropy will fail,—as Arthington saw when he urged on the American Colonization Society to found an interior settlement,—unless the central fountain of the bitter waters be reached, and its headsprings be purified. The question for English, and yet more for American philanthropists, is, whether the growing, instead of diminishing, influence of these two Christian nations shall “scatter” the people already so “peeled,” or “gather” them; whether that influence shall sink still lower, or raise to a new life, the race whom Christian greed for gold has so long cursed.

That question is now ready for solution; as these three facts indicate:

First. Africa is ripe for American civilization. Unlike England, America has never made her appeal to the nations of Europe, Asia, and Africa by the sword. She has gone, indeed, with the spirit of commerce; but has made the people of the world feel that its extension was a mutual interest, not an entering wedge for an armed monopoly of its emoluments. Yet more, she has received the lowest classes of all the continents, and has returned them as angels of blessing, to carry new hopes to their countrymen. Africa is ready for American civilization.

Second. American freedmen can alone carry this civilization to the land of their ancestors. They have had reason, like Joseph, to remember the wrongs of their white brethren, who sold them into bondage; but like Joseph, too, they can say,

"God meant it for good, for the saving of our father's house." Like the hoary patriarch, who, in North Carolina, headed the band of colonists about to sail for the interior settlement of Arthington, thousands of the freedmen can now say, "Thank God for slavery; otherwise I could not have been fitted for this mission to the land of my fathers." Thousands will cling, without doubt, to this land, where they have toiled, and have a title now to comforts denied their kindred in their fatherland; but, amid the competition between white and colored laborers, hundreds still will, with Rev. Mr. Hill, at Washington, District of Columbia, say of all the new privileges now conferred on them, "We are but borrowing the jewels of our old masters, to which we have a right, to carry them, to serve our God with, in the land promised to our fathers." And,

Third. The American Colonization Society is the only thoroughly equipped organization to aid those who aspire to bear American jewels to the land of their ancestors. It is a mistake to suppose that the Society only wants to transport these people over the sea. They have always furnished six months' provisions, shelter, and school teachers; through their agents, steam-engines, sugar-mills, printing presses, books, a College building, and missionary stores are forwarded; and not unfrequently missionaries of different Christian denominations have a free passage in their ships. Yet more, enterprising men among the colonists, with the countenance and aid of the Society, penetrate back of the colonial settlements; some find the tribes from which they have descended: and several have become the civil, as well as religious, leaders of whole tribes, bringing them to unite with the Liberian Republic as associated States, and to adopt the arts of Christian civilization.

If there ever was opened on earth a field of the grandest conceivable enterprise, it is that now presented to the colored citizens of America, to make themselves great as leaders in the redemption of their native Continent. Never did such aid and support from the great nations of earth combine to favor colonial enterprise, as that which England and America now proffer; bringing it, too, as a trespass-offering to the altar of Africa, whose toil for their national benefit has been so long unrepaid.

If ever a people had an easy and honorable means of canceling a debt, it is now offered to English and American citizens in American colonization of Africa. There is not a citizen of America, whose ancestry have been in this land half the period that has elapsed since the first slave-ships brought African laborers to till American soil, who is not indebted for a large portion of his wealth to unremunerated African laborers: for the planter, the manufacturer, the merchant, and every wearer of cotton, has alike shared the profit of that unpaid toil. Mr. Bennett expended \$40,000 simply to bring information to England and America, which will lead, at an early day, to the suppression of the Zanzibar slave-trade. For \$100 any well-wisher to Africa can add one man, with all his future descendants and their influence, to the work of transplanting American civilization to the heart of the African Continent.

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT ROBERTS.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the

House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia:

You are again assembled in your legislative capacity, to confer together upon the common good, and to enact such laws and adopt such other measures as, in your judgment, shall be deemed necessary to the interest of the State, and conducive to the prosperity and happiness of the people. And to this end you have brought with you the experience of another year, which will doubtless aid you much in the discharge of the important duties now devolved upon you. There is also great cause for thankfulness, that you have entered upon the duties of your present session under auspices essentially more favorable and encouraging than when you assembled a year ago. The political troubles which then perplexed you have happily subsided, and the affairs of Government have resumed their wonted regularity and efficiency. It is, indeed, cause for profound gratulation and thankfulness, that the danger which then threatened the very foundation of our political fabric was so happily averted; and we find ourselves to-day under renewed obligations to a kind Providence, for the protecting care so signally manifested in our behalf. No people, perhaps, has been more eminently favored, or should acknowledge with deeper gratitude and reverence the manifestations of the Divine protection.

OBITUARY.

I have to announce to the Legislature that, since your last meeting, it has pleased an Allwise Providence to remove by death Senator Montgomery, of Sinoe County, from the national councils. His place has been supplied by another distinguished citizen of that County. I may also be permitted to mention on this occasion the decease, within the year, of a distinguished foreigner, whose life has been devoted to the best interests of Liberia, and who has shared largely the confidence and esteem of the whole people of this Republic. In early manhood he consecrated his brilliant talents and commanding eloquence to the cause of African Colonization—not for lucre, nor to gratify any morbid desire for worldly fame; but impelled wholly by motives of Christian philanthropy, in behalf of a despised and cruelly oppressed race. I allude to the Rev. R. R. Gurley, a contemporary of Jehudi Ashmun, and who stood by the side of that brave and good man on this hill, nearly half a century ago, aiding by his advice and counsel in arranging for the safety of the infant Colony, still struggling between hope and fear as to the ultimate result of the great undertaking. His memory will be cherished in every Liberian heart.

A HOPEFUL FUTURE.

Half a century has just marked the existence of our little Commonwealth; and a kind Providence has graciously watched over all our public interests, and guided and directed us in our infant struggle for nationality in a manner clearly indicative of a hopeful future for our country.

It is my duty, at this early stage of your session, to communicate with the Legislature in regard to the condition of the Republic, and to recommend for your consideration and adoption such measures as appear to me expedient or necessary to the public welfare.

THANKS TO PUBLIC OFFICERS.

It affords me pleasure to state, that during the year the officers of Government generally have applied themselves assiduously to their respective functions; and I am particularly indebted to those gentlemen who are immediately associated with me in the Government, for the willing and efficient service they have rendered in maintaining order and restoring system in the management of public affairs. And while each has performed faithfully and promptly the duties of his office, the Secretary of the Treasury—as the present favorable condition of the public finances fully attests—is entitled to unqualified credit for the persistent devotedness with which he has applied himself to the onerous and perplexing duties of his

Department. And it is gratifying to know, that the improved state of the public finances has greatly facilitated all branches of trade and industrial pursuits: the farmer and the mechanic, especially, are substantially benefited in the rewards of labor by the par value of the currency of the country.

ENCOURAGING ASPECT.

With the disappearance of those political apprehensions which so seriously disturbed the public mind a year ago, the national concerns resumed their usual encouraging aspect; the people returned to their various industrial pursuits with renewed energy; and at present the agricultural and commercial interests of the country indicate a degree of prosperity and enlargement particularly gratifying. And it is no less pleasing to note, that while those discordant political elements at home have been generally harmonized, peace has been maintained with our aboriginal neighbors; and nothing has occurred during the year unfavorable to our amicable relations abroad. I may not, however, omit to mention, that there has been no further correspondence with Her Britannic Majesty's Government on the subject of our Northwest boundary line, nor in regard to the balance of the demand made by Her Majesty's Government for indemnity to British traders for goods seized as forfeited to the Government by the Liberian authorities in 1869, on said disputed territory. It is very desirable the Legislature order some expression in regard to these matters, and that they be satisfactorily arranged without further delay.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

As regards the agricultural interest of the country, I may remark, that while the export of coffee for the year shows considerable increase over any previous year, it has been a matter of regret, that the interruption to agricultural labor, occasioned by the Northwest military expedition, in the early part of last year, and the political difficulties immediately following, produced a scarcity of certain articles of food—rice, cassada, and potatoes—during the last season, which was seriously felt in several parts of the Republic; but I am thankful to say, that the crops of the present year, though not so abundant as could be desired, afforded the necessary relief. It is pleasing to observe the widespread attention now being paid to this important interest, especially in the growth of coffee, sugar-cane, arrow-root, and ginger. Farmers everywhere are increasing their fields to the fullest extent of their ability. As a sure and permanent source of national wealth and individual comfort, this branch of industry deserves the special attention and encouragement of Government, to advance as rapidly as possible its full development.

TRADE EXPANDING.

But while nature has blessed us with a soil and climate so admirably adapted to the growth of a variety of marketable products, we may readily regard agriculture as the surest road for Liberia to national prosperity; nevertheless the commercial interest of the Republic is also an important element of the national resources, and as such is well deserving the fostering care of the Government. The trade and the mercantile marine of the Republic have increased, and are still increasing, in a ratio scarcely credible: enterprising merchants are opening up new avenues of trade, and are extending their operations both coastwise and interior, with encouraging prospects of continued success. I scarcely need remind the Legislature, that this expanding trade and shipping interest should receive that protection and encouragement which its growing importance demands; not only for the purpose of increasing the public revenue and the capital of merchants, which are of course important considerations, but also with a view to correcting the abuses and checking the evil tendencies, to which the present manner of conducting trade along our Coast is exposed.

There can be no reasonable doubt, that by a well-directed effort of Government, in giving adequate protection and systematizing this trade, it may, within a comparatively short period, be astonishingly increased; and at the same time, by suitable inducements and restrictions, so improve the quality of our oil product—by condemning the admixture of foreign substances, now so generally practiced by the natives in its manufacture—as to make it equal in value to the very best article of the kind in the foreign market. I am aware that you had this subject under consideration at your last session, comprised in a bill entitled “An act organizing a Board of Trade;” but owing to the extraordinary claims upon your time and attention, in consequence of the peculiar public exigencies then paramount, you were prevented from digesting said bill, so as to satisfactorily harmonize all its parts to meet the object contemplated. During your recess I have given this subject much thought, and had proposed a visit to several of the most important trading sections, for the purpose of personal observation, as a means of acquiring fuller information in regard to the general state of the trade, and the measures best to be adopted for its improvement. But not being able to procure suitable conveyance, I have not found it convenient to make this visit; nevertheless I have carefully considered the provisions traced in your original bill, and I shall take occasion, at an early day, to submit for consideration two or three suggestions that have occurred to me in connection with the meas-

ures you propose, and which I think will add a little more efficiency in producing the results intended to be secured.

A GOVERNMENT VESSEL NEEDED.

In respect to the visit of which I have spoken, I have reason to believe, that if it could have been carried out, considerable good might have been accomplished. And I may here remark, that perhaps one of the greatest present needs of the Republic, is that of a suitable public vessel; not only as a means of protecting the trade and securing the customs, but also to afford regular and speedy communication between the settlements and trading stations now spread along the whole line of our Coast. An enterprising merchant of Buchanan owns a fine schooner, which he proposes to sell to the Government to meet this demand. The Secretary of the Treasury will submit his proposal to your consideration.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

As regards our navigation laws, I am not convinced that they are open to any material improvement—either in respect to national vessels or foreign shipping visiting our ports. It is true there are certain reprehensible irregularities being practiced at several points of our Coast—particularly by the two lines of British steamers prosecuting the African trade—especially in the transportation of native laborers in contravention of the law restricting the visits of all foreign vessels to ports of entry, and contrary to the regulations adopted by Government for the protection of native laborers engaged to proceed beyond the limits of the Republic.

When, in 1852, the “African Steamship Company” commenced running their steamers along this Coast, carrying the royal mail, the Government of Liberia—to encourage the enterprise, as a means of facilitating trade and travel, and of securing a regular channel of communication between Liberia and foreign parts—exempted said steamers from all port charges, custom-house dues and regulations, for the purpose of affording to them every possible dispatch. Subsequently, the “British and African Steam Navigation Company” introduced their steamers on the line, and though no application seems to have been made to that end—the Government, still entertaining the considerations above referred to, had not thought proper to withhold from these the same privileges and facilities. But I regret to say (with, however, several commendable exceptions) the commanders of said steamers have not seemed to appreciate these immunities. On more than one occasion we have had just cause of complaint, and in answer to our remonstrances we have been met with the reply, “If you are not satisfied, or should attempt to enforce your navigation restrictions, the

Company's steamers can readily be withdrawn from your ports." This is certainly true; but such threats should inspire no intimidation, where a manifest duty to the State and its citizens is involved. The commerce of Liberia is open to the enterprise and competition of the world, and will be looked after so far as it can be made profitable. It is clearly evident, that by means of these steamers trade and travel along this West Coast have amazingly increased, and by their regular visits the mercantile facilities of Liberia are greatly enhanced: all of which we are free to acknowledge and fully to appreciate, and in this conviction we should extend to them every reasonable exemption. Still, while we would, by all proper concessions, encourage an enterprise so eminently calculated to develop the commercial resources of this Coast, we cannot yield what would either compromise the national dignity, or impair the sovereignty of the State. No foreign Power will require this of us, in dealing with its vessels visiting our ports.

THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE LABORERS.

But to return to the subject of the transportation of native laborers from our Coast, which, as now practiced, is attended with hardships that have recently, and very justly, elicited severe animadversion. I doubt not the Legislature will give this matter their earliest attention, and will adopt measures to correct the abuses complained of with as little delay as possible.

These people are citizens of the Republic, and as such are entitled to the full protection of Government. While they are at liberty to seek employment wheresoever their interest, in their judgment, could be best served, it is the imperative duty of Government to see—1. That no undue means are resorted to by native chiefs, or others, to force any into engagements against their will; 2. That they shall receive humane treatment on their passage from and to their homes; and, 3. That their property or effects, especially on the return passage, shall not be exposed to unnecessary waste or damage. I am aware that you had this subject under consideration at your last session, and that the House of Representatives originated a bill, entitled "An act authorizing the appointment of shipping masters for the protection of native Africans," which it was thought would afford salutary correction of the wrongs to which these native laborers are exposed; but, for reasons which I mentioned in reference to your "Board of Trade" organization, this bill also failed to pass into a law. And I may be permitted to say that, as a measure regulating the ordinary shipping interest at the several ports of entry as regards seamen, said bill, with a slight revision, may be found serviceable; but to meet the requirements of this particular case, I am fully impressed that

a special regulation would be more efficient. I, however, submit the whole matter to your careful and judicious consideration.

THE FINANCES.

I am glad to inform the Legislature, that the present condition of the public finances is as favorable as could reasonably be expected. The demands upon the Treasury during the year have been unusually large, consequent upon the additional expense incurred to meet the exigencies of the late Provisional Government; also increased by the protracted session of your last meeting, and by the prolonged judicial proceedings, in the early part of the year, made necessary for the disposal of certain cases pending against political offenders: nevertheless it has been found, that the ordinary revenues of the Republic were sufficient to discharge these, with the current expenses of Government, leaving a small amount to be applied to the liquidation of the floating debt.

THE ENGLISH LOAN.

The Secretary of the Treasury will lay before you a detailed statement of the condition of the finances, comprising receipts and expenditures at the Treasury for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1872. And the facts and figures there exhibited are, to me, convincing proofs of the utter inutility of the ill-advised and premature loan negotiated in England during the last year. It is very bad policy to contract a new debt to discharge an old one, especially at increased disadvantage. And, in regard to our old debt, I have not discovered a single reason why a foreign loan should have been resorted to for its payment, when it might have been readily funded at home, at comparatively small interest, and the principal and interest fully discharged, without increasing the taxes or interrupting the general operations of Government, in much less time than said debt has been accumulating. And as to the grand public improvements to be accomplished, as set forth in the programme of said loan, the whole thing was merely speculative, and therefore premature. Such public undertakings as there noted, and carried forward to completion, would unquestionably be a great blessing to Liberia. But no specific improvement had been designated; no plans had been matured; indeed, not a single preliminary had been arranged for prosecuting any work, so that, when the money should be obtained, it might be readily and profitably applied.

But this loan, in all its phases, forms a remarkable episode in the history of Liberia; and has finally involved the country in a monetary difficulty, far beyond what the most earnest opposers of the measure could have possibly anticipated.

The act authorizing the loan provides, 1st, for the borrowing of not more than \$500,000, at a rate of interest not exceeding seven per cent. per annum, and that the lender should be allowed to deduct three years' interest thereon; 2d, that not less than \$100,000 of said loan should be applied to the payment of the existing public debt; 3d, that not less than \$100,000 should be deposited in the Treasury of the Republic as a basis upon which should be issued a paper currency denominated Treasury Notes; and, 4th, that the remainder of said loan should be deposited in some safe banking institution, as a fund to be drawn upon in case of emergency by special act of the Legislature.

At the time this loan act was passed, President Roye was contemplating a visit to England and the United States, and, as I learn, it was distinctly understood between the Legislature and the President that the loan would be negotiated at par, and that he would give it his personal attention while abroad, and thus avoid the expense of negotiation. President Roye, however, returned from his visit without success. He then, it appears, opened a correspondence with David Chinery, Esq., at the time Liberian Consul-General at London, on the subject, who, it would seem, assured him that the loan could be negotiated in London, and advised that Commissioners should be sent over to England for that purpose. On the receipt of this information, it was understood that President Roye intended to convene the Legislature to consider Mr. Chinery's proposals or suggestions, and, if deemed advisable, to authorize the appointment of Commissioners, and to take such other action as the nature of the case might require. The President, however, did not convene the Legislature, for the reason, as supposed, that the general feeling at the time was strongly opposed to the loan, and that, if assembled, the Legislature would entirely abrogate the loan act. But whatever may have prompted the course, the President thought proper to take upon himself the responsibility of appointing Commissioners, and vesting them with powers wholly unauthorized by law. And said Commissioners did negotiate in London, August, 1871, a 7 per cent. loan, of £100,000 sterling, at 30 per cent. below par and three years' interest deducted—leaving a balance of £49,000 paid into bank to the credit of the Commissioners. Then followed a system of charges, speculations and frauds unparalleled, I presume, in any public loan transaction of modern times. No sooner was it announced in Liberia that the loan had been secured than President Roye—before a single dollar had been paid into the Treasury of the Republic for any of the purposes specified in the loan act, and before the Legislature had either accepted the loan or taken any action

in relation thereto—commenced to draw drafts against it for account of himself and others, and also directed Mr. David Chinery, who seems to have been the managing Commissioner, to invest £10,000 of said loan in the purchase of merchandise, as alleged, for the account of Government; and all this without the slightest shadow of legislative authority, and greatly damaging to the interest of the Republic.

Mr. Chinery did ship to Liberia merchandise invoiced at £14,146 3s 6d, or the larger portion of it, including transportation, shipping charges, freight, insurance, &c.; most of the articles, however, largely in excess of their market value, many of them greatly inferior in quality, and some almost, and others entirely, useless in Liberia.

Indeed, so palpably manifest was the mismanagement of this whole loan transaction in London, and so culpably extravagant the charges and other outlays connected with it, that James Jackson, Esq., then Consul, now Consul-General of Liberia at London, felt it to be his duty to interpose in behalf of the Republic, and to arrest, by legal proceedings, the further misapplication of these funds—at least until the pleasure of the Government could be known. And we have good reason to believe the course was specially judicious; for up to that time not a dollar of the money borrowed had been legitimately applied, and a balance of only £17,903 remained.

Mr. Jackson is entitled to much credit for his prompt action and for the important service he has rendered to the Government in protecting its interests under the peculiar circumstances. These proceedings, as might be supposed, have caused him no little annoyance and perplexity; nevertheless he has conducted them, I am pleased to say, in a self-sacrificing spirit truly commendable, and in a manner entirely satisfactory to the Government; all of which is justly appreciated.

I scarcely need say to the Legislature that the whole matter of this loan is most unfortunate for Liberia. It has already produced political occurrences which we could well wish to have escaped; and it still involves complications and embarrassments extremely perplexing. The correspondence and accounts, with all the papers relating thereto, received at the State and Treasury Departments during your recess, will be laid before you.

At your last session—though almost entirely ignorant of the conditions upon which the loan had been negotiated, and wholly so in regard to the enormous frauds that had been practiced, but in consequence of the circumstances which had been forced upon you by the arrival of the larger portion of the merchandise purchased by Mr. Chinery, and which seemed to demand legislative interference to protect the interests of all concerned, and

to maintain, if possible, the credit of the Government—you deemed it advisable to accept the loan.

At the time of the arrival of said merchandise—indeed, up to the hour of your adjournment, nearly nine months after it had been contracted—no definite report from the Commissioners nor any account of expenditures from Mr. Chinery had been received. Why this culpable neglect, we are left only to conjecture. But you will now find that the Commissioners entered into engagements which appear to me decidedly objectionable; and of the £100,000 for which the country was pledged, it is very doubtful that more than £25,000 will be realized by Government.

Instead, therefore, of the great public benefits boastfully announced to be conferred upon Liberia by capital derived from this loan, the country finds itself involved in an onerous public debt, which no good citizen can fail to deplore. Had this debt been incurred in consequence of any unavoidable necessity, or had the Government received, in any shape, an equivalent therefor, the people would cheerfully submit to any sacrifice necessary to discharge it; but to be heavily taxed to pay a claim entailed upon them by a reckless and unscrupulous course of procedure, is matter of serious public concern; it is, therefore, not surprising that the people should feel anxious and complain. Nevertheless, the national honor is at stake. And however censurable the wrong-doings by which we have been brought into this financial difficulty, and however indignant we may feel towards the guilty parties, we cannot indulge the thought of impairing the public credit. Every patriotic citizen will recognize the force of this conclusion, and readily accept it.

Assuming, gentlemen, that you concur in this view, I doubt not the Legislature will adopt such measures as shall be deemed adequate to meet regularly the interest accruing on the debt, and also provide a sufficient sinking fund for its total extinction at the period fixed for its redemption.

I scarcely need say to you, that the subject of the payment of this debt is a matter of deep concern among all classes of our citizens; not only because of the culpable manner in which it has been imposed upon them, but more especially because they foresee that in providing for its discharge—without excessively oppressive burdens upon the people—many of the objects of national improvement must necessarily be neglected or suspended for a time, and thereby seriously retard the progress of the country in some of its most important interests.

In this view of the case, I fully appreciate the perplexities you are likely to encounter during the present session. But while it is clear that the Government will be pressed for funds

to prosecute energetically all the objects of public solicitude, I do not indulge the apprehensions so generally expressed of the distressing insufficiency of the public resources. By strict economy and accountability in the disbursements of public money, I cannot doubt but that we shall be able to accomplish much more than the fears of many of our fellow-citizens will allow them even to hope for.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIVE TRIBES.

But passing from the unpleasant view of our present pecuniary situation occasioned by this unfortunate loan, and in looking to the internal concerns of the country, I am sure you will find much to impress you favorably, and to encourage your efforts in promoting those objects of national interest to which, in the discharge of your official duties, your attention will be drawn. And among these I cannot too strongly urge upon your consideration the importance of inaugurating some well-digested plan for the more rapid improvement of the condition of the native tribes bordering on our frontiers, and especially the adoption of measures that will accelerate the elevation of the aboriginal population within our political jurisdiction. This is a subject of increasing solicitude: nay, it lies at the very foundation of Liberia's permanent advancement and ultimate success. Their civilization is not only indispensable to their own happiness, but equally so to the maintenance of our civil institutions, and the growth and prosperity of the country. The sooner they can be brought to understand distinctly the great objects of civil government, and the obligation they are under as citizens to conform themselves to all the requirements of the civil compact, the sooner will the Government be relieved from much of the trouble and expense now annually incurred in repressing such of their barbarous practices as still cling to them: especially their insatiable propensity for roving, pilfering excursions, and committing depredations upon traders and other peaceable citizens. Recently, one or two audacious outrages have been committed at Niffou and that neighborhood, upon vessels and crews employed by certain of our merchants at Harper, and which the Government is bound to redress. The papers and documents relating to these occurrences will be laid before you.

In the meantime, it is a gratifying fact that, in the general, our native population is making encouraging advances, under the fostering operations of our civil and religious institutions; and I shall hope that the Legislature will find it within the scope of their pecuniary ability to continue, if not increase, the means of facilitating this desirable work. Many of the chiefs and headmen of tribes within our limits are now earnestly im-

portuning the Government to establish schools in their districts, for the instruction of their children in the principles of Christianity, in the ordinary branches of literature, and in the arts of civilized life. Instead of the severe pressure upon our finances, I could heartily wish the Legislature had at their disposal many thousands of dollars to devote to this object.

RESERVATIONS FOR NATIVES.

The present, perhaps, may not be the most favorable time, considering the question of expense, though I do not believe the outlay need be considerable, for bringing into view a thought I have some time entertained, of the propriety of collecting the thousands of the Dey and Golah tribes now squatting in little hamlets over the whole southeastern portion of this county, obtaining a precarious subsistence; and often the subjects of violence by marauders of other tribes, into two or three large towns, regularly laid out, in civilized style, with good farming lands contiguous; where thus congregated, they may be easily reached and brought directly under civilizing and Christianizing influences, by having suitable officers appointed among them to arrange their disputes, and to instruct them in the improved modes of husbandry and the mechanic arts, and where schools may be established for the education of their children. I believe that in a very few years the benefits accruing from this plan, both to the Government and to these people, would be incalculable.

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

In regard to the subject of general education in Liberia, I may only remark that it is still of paramount importance. And it is a matter of deep regret that, even with the generous assistance of Missionary Societies in the United States, we are not able to supply the increasing demands for educational facilities in many of our scattered Americo-Liberian settlements: some of these are wholly without regular schools, and others have schools of such low grade as scarcely to deserve the name of schools. Nothing can be more desirable than that the youth of our country, the whole country, should have placed within their reach the means of acquiring that degree of mental training necessary to make them useful members of society; and also, as far as practicable, to lay such a foundation as will enable them to reach readily those attainments required for the higher duties of life. In this view we have not only to deplore the need of funds to maintain schools, but also the need of efficient teachers to conduct them. No one can doubt that both the Church and the State are now suffering for the want of additional intelligence to aid in advancing the civil and religious institutions of the country. In this con-

nection, I have great pleasure in communicating to the Legislature, that that distinguished philanthropist and noble friend of Liberia, Hon. H. M. Schieffelin, who has always felt the liveliest interest in the educational advancement of the Republic, has just created a foundation from which the Government may expect to receive three hundred dollars per annum for the use of common schools. We thank him and the gentlemen who are co-operating with him in this kindness.

And I may also add here, that we have great cause for thankfulness that a gracious Providence put it into the hearts of our friends in the United States—especially in Massachusetts, the cradle of American literature and science—to establish Liberia College. It stands among us as a beacon-light; an important and efficient agency in dispelling the deep gloom which, for so many weary centuries, has enveloped the minds of the people of this degraded Continent. It is an incalculable blessing to Liberia and to Africa; it has already prepared a goodly number of young men for usefulness, many of whom are now rendering valuable service as teachers and otherwise in various parts of the Republic. I shall hope that American philanthropy will continue to cherish an enterprise so eminently worthy of Christian sympathy, and will amply endow it for the successful prosecution of the work it is designed to accomplish.

THE LEEWARD COUNTIES.

In September last, through the kindness of Captain Richardson, of the *barque* "Thomas Pope," owned by Messrs. Yates & Porterfield, of New York, I was enabled to make a short visit, accompanied by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to the three leeward counties. It was a visit of observation and inspection, and in all personal respects peculiarly pleasant and agreeable. The health of the people was generally good, whilst everywhere a degree of comfort and happiness was observable. In some places we witnessed most gratifying indications of rapidly increasing prosperity; though, without intending to be invidious, I may be permitted to remark, that in some places I fancied—still, I may be mistaken—that the people devoted too much of their time to politics, at the expense of their own personal interests.

I regret to have to inform the Legislature that in all the counties, more or less, we found much to complain of in the management of the public concerns. The absence of any regular system of public accounts was everywhere manifest, and of consequence the receipts and disbursements of the public moneys were found, in some instances, culpably vague and unsatisfactory; and in one or two instances of the conduct of public officers, it appeared to me that official accountability seemed

to exert but little controlling influence in restraining their own views and purposes in dealing with the public interests. The duties of public officers in Liberia are generally plain and simple, and men of intelligence may readily qualify themselves for their performance: whenever, therefore, delinquencies occur, no officer should be allowed to escape the penalty attached to his official misconduct.

We found each of the counties sadly deficient in suitable public buildings. In Grand Bassa County they have neither court-house nor jail. The Company of African Merchants own in the city of Buchanan two large buildings adjacent, constructed of stone and brick, covered with sheets of galvanized iron. I am advised that the Company will sell these buildings; and on examination it is thought that, with a moderate additional outlay, they can be made available for court-house and jail, and also afford office accommodation for other departments. If in the judgment of the Legislature the amount required for the purchase is deemed compatible with our present financial exigency, I would earnestly recommend that they be secured. In Sinoe County they have a commodious court-house, but the jail is in a wretchedly dilapidated condition. In Maryland County they have in course of erection a substantial jail, but they are without a court-house; and the Light-house at Harper has become so unsafe as to necessitate a discontinuance of the light. All these matters claim your attention. It was a cause of very sincere regret that in each of these counties, particularly in Grand Bassa and Sinoe, our time was too limited to allow us to collect all the information desired in relation to several matters connected with the public interests; and especially to investigate certain native difficulties, and to conclude some arrangements with neighboring chiefs, deemed desirable to restore harmony and a good understanding between them. I shall probably have occasion, during the session, to bring to your notice two or three other matters of a public character relating to these counties, which may require legislative action.

THE PUBLIC REVENUE.

The condition of the public finances is always an object of deep solicitude to any people; and in ordinary times is properly regarded the surest index of the growth and prosperity of a country. In this view it is doubtless gratifying to the Legislature to learn that the revenues of the past year have fully met the public expectation; and but for the heavy draft now to be made upon our income, in consequence of the recent seven per cent loan, we might feel satisfied with the monetary prospects of the Republic. But this additional charge upon the revenue forces the necessity of revising the present financial policy of the Government to meet this new exigency.

Accompanying the able and elaborate Report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be laid before you a statement of the probable receipts, with an estimate of appropriations, for the current year. The Report comprises a comprehensive view of the whole range of our fiscal concerns; and I am persuaded will be valuable in directing your deliberations in regard to the matters of which it treats. On the subject of disbursements, I feel sure the Legislature—for the times demand it—will maintain the strictest circumspection. It does not admit of doubt that in times past there has been great improvidence in the expenditure of the public moneys on objects of doubtful utility, and for the increase of patronage not called for by the public service. Such misapplication of the people's money should be discontinued; and to this end I invite the careful attention of the Legislature to a general and minute inquiry into the whole working condition of the Government, with a view to ascertain what offices can be dispensed with, what expenses retrenched, and what improvements may be made in the organization of its various parts, to secure the proper responsibility of public servants, and to promote efficiency in all its operations.

While the Executive is charged, in the Departments under him, with the disbursement of the public money, and is responsible for the faithful application of it to the purposes for which it is appropriated, and to meet this requisite responsibility, every facility should be afforded to the Executive, to enable him to bring the public agents intrusted with the public money strictly and promptly to account, the Legislature is the watchful guardian over the public purse; and in the discharge of this obligation it is its duty to see that no moneys be appropriated unless for purposes clearly necessary to the public requirements. And I may also be permitted here to remind the Legislature, that among the maxims of political economy which the stewards of the public funds should never suffer to be transcended, without urgent necessity, is that of keeping the expenditures within the limits of the receipts. In the observance of this maxim there can be no failure in maintaining the public credit.

THE FLOATING DEBT.

With the view of ascertaining the actual indebtedness of the country, the Commissioners appointed at your last session, in each of the Counties, "to examine all papers purporting to bind the Government to the payment of money," and to discover, as far as practicable, all claims held by the Government against individuals, entered promptly upon the duties assigned to them; and their reports on the indebtedness of the Government at the close of the fiscal year which ended 30th September, 1871, will be

laid before you. According to the exhibits, the Commissioners passed upon claims against the Government amounting in the aggregate to \$130,000.

As directed by the Legislature, the Secretary of the Treasury has applied such of the merchandise shipped by Mr. Chinery as could be made available to the payment of a considerable portion of this debt. A portion of said merchandise, unsaleable, remains on hand. I would suggest that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to dispose of these articles under the hammer, and close up the consignment. I may also state here, that during the year nothing has been drawn by the Government from the balance that remained of the loan. The Legislature will therefore determine what disposition shall be made of it: whether it shall be used for discharging the balance of the floating debt, for canceling bonds issued on account of the loan, or for such other purposes as may be deemed more urgent to the public demands.

I regret that the Commissioners for the Counties of Grand Bassa and Sinoe have not as yet made a return on that part of their duty relating to claims due from individuals to the Government. It is known, however, there are numerous amounts outstanding, making in the aggregate no insignificant sum, though a considerable portion of it is undoubtedly desperate, and can never, perhaps, be recovered. Nevertheless, it behooves the Government to ascertain the real state of the case; and to accomplish this, it seems desirable that the Legislature should adopt some special judicious course for the collection of such of these claims as can be made available.

THE JUDICIARY.

I am thoroughly impressed that some modification of our present judiciary system—in its triple relation of convenience, efficiency, and economy—is desirable. The Attorney General will submit to the Legislature a few suggestions he has carefully drawn on these points, and which I recommend to your favorable consideration.

COMPILATION OF THE STATUTES.

I have to inform the Legislature that Ex-Attorney General Johnson has placed in the State Department a compilation of the Statutes of the Republic, which he had undertaken about two years ago. The work has not yet been examined or compared. The Legislature will of course direct what disposition shall be made of it.

Under the existing aspect of our pecuniary affairs, it will rest with the judgment of the Legislature to decide whether several of the present statutes may not be materially modified. And I would invite special attention to the statutes relating to

pensions and the grant of bounty lands. The general pension law is altogether too vague in its application, and of consequence entails upon the Government an expense doubtless far beyond what was contemplated by the framers of the law. And the act granting bounty lands to volunteers engaged in military expeditions deprives the Government of an important source of revenue, by no means compensated by the service it is intended to encourage.

THE MILITIA.

It will also deserve the consideration of the Legislature whether the militia organization of the Republic is not susceptible of improvement. Situated as we are in the midst of barbarous tribes, an efficient militia is the only sure guarantee of defence and security. Our present organization is universally regarded as less efficient than it ought to be made. The system of quarterly gatherings, where the militia is called out for a day only, and paraded through the streets for a few hours, imparts little or nothing of that kind of military instruction which the peculiar mode of offensive and defensive operations in acting against the natives makes it necessary for us to adopt. In regard to this I would suggest, that the militia be required to assemble once, or perhaps twice, a year, for a period of six or eight days; during which time the whole force shall be put upon the footing of troops, as regards discipline and rations, when called into actual service. Under an arrangement of this kind, I have no doubt the effect would be most salutary, as a means of better qualifying the militia for the service to be performed in the event of hostilities, and it would unquestionably more strongly impress our aboriginal neighbors with the readiness and power of the Government to repel attacks, repress violence, and maintain order. By this show of preparedness we should, without doubt, allay much of the restless disposition of native chiefs in the vicinity of our more remote and exposed settlements to predatory excursions, and relieve the Government from the too frequent necessity of expensive military expeditions to punish such offences, and to preserve the public tranquillity.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

During your recess a dispatch reached the State Department, requesting this Government to take part in the International Exhibition to be held at Vienna, Austria, in the spring of 1873; but in consequence of the depressed condition of the public finances, it was not deemed advisable that the Government should enter upon the undertaking.

I have also to acquaint the Legislature that, in a communication received several months ago from Edward S. Morris, Esq.,

of Philadelphia, we are informed that a place will be assigned to Liberia in the Grand Centennial Exhibition to come off in the City of Philadelphia, United States of America, in the summer of 1876. For several substantial reasons, it strikes me as very desirable that Liberia, if practicable, should be represented at said Exhibition. No doubt Liberia would be able to contribute various articles of native product, that would be interesting to commerce, and perhaps to science. The vast agricultural, mineral, and other valuable resources of this country are but little known to the world. It can scarcely be doubted that a fair representation of the products of West Africa, even as far as at present discovered, could not fail to awaken in the United States a spirit of commercial enterprise that would produce most valuable results to Liberia. And further: it appears to me a fit occasion for demonstrating the labor-paying advantages of the country to those in the United States whose attention may have been drawn to Liberia with a view of emigrating hither. And, in connection with this subject, I would invite the attention of the Legislature to the desirableness—if the expense can be now met—of directing such explorations and researches as might lead to the discovery of new sources of wealth and enterprise.

SIMPLICITY AND ECONOMY NECESSARY.

Having, in as concise a manner as possible, invited your attention to the principal matters which I have thought it necessary at this time to communicate for your information and consideration, I may only add, that in looking forward to the expense which may be found inevitable for the operations of government during the present year, I am consoled in the reflection, gentlemen, that each of you fully understands the peculiar situation of our country at the present juncture, and that, as the result of your united deliberations, you will adopt such measures as shall maintain the public credit, preserve the efficiency of the Government, and promote and secure those objects of national concern deemed necessary to the permanent advancement of the country; and that, with a view to the accomplishment of these ends, I dare say you will take into serious consideration the genius of our institutions, which prescribes simplicity and economy in all that pertains to the public service.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF LIBERIA.

But I cannot close this communication without congratulating the Legislature on the interesting period in the history of Liberia at which you are now assembled. You commence your present session in the midst of great public demonstrations and rejoicings on the occasion of the Semi-Centennial An-

niversary of the wonderful achievement of our pioneer fathers—when opposed by hordes of barbarous warriors, backed and encouraged by more than savage monsters in the shape of foreign slave-traders—which permanently established on this hill the foundations of our present political fabric.

Standing at this point of time, and looking back to the heroic deeds of December 1, 1822, when was gained that signal triumph of freedom over the implacable enemies of human progress and the rights of man, it is with profound admiration that we contemplate the steady determination of that little band of Christian patriots, under the most appalling discouragements, to establish on this barbarous Coast an asylum, where they and their children might enjoy, unmolestedly, the blessings of civil and religious liberty. With but a single venerable exception, all, I believe, who took an active part in the severe contest of that memorable day have departed, cheered by the benedictions of a grateful posterity, to whom they left the inheritance of their fame and free institutions, and the memory of their ardent patriotism in the struggle for freedom.

In reviewing the scenes through which Liberia has passed during the half century, and the proofs given that our political institutions have been equal to the severest trials, we may well indulge in grateful exultations in respect to the past, and in cheering hopes of the future: nevertheless, it becomes us always to recollect that, for the numerous benefits we have received, we are indebted to a gracious Providence, whose goodness has been so remarkably extended to this people in times of deepest distress.

Now, gentlemen and fellow-citizens, in managing the legacy that has been committed to our hands in trust for generations yet to follow, we cannot be too careful in maintaining and improving this political inheritance, that posterity shall have no just reason to complain of any want of diligence on our part in promoting the public interest, or of any improvidence that would entail upon them burdens either unreasonable or oppressive.

It is therefore of the highest importance that the Legislature—where is supposed to be centered the intelligence and wisdom of the country—should exert their best energies to improve and perpetuate the political fabric which our fathers have reared; and should allow no opportunity to pass unimproved, by which an enlightened patriotism might contribute to the general weal—looking both to the present and to the future.

Finally, gentlemen, feeling deeply impressed with the inestimable blessings we now enjoy, and with the weighty obliga-

tion and responsibility resting upon us, I commend you, in all your deliberations, to the guidance of that Allwise Providence, whose beneficent goodness has been so conspicuously manifested towards us these many years, and whose favor we will continue to supplicate in behalf of all the interests of our country.

J. J. ROBERTS.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, MONROVIA, *December 9, 1872.*

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

The following officials were confirmed during this session, by the Senate: *Consul General at Brussels*, Eugene Van Meerberke; *Consul at Antwerp*, Ferdinand Nants; *Consul General to the German Empire*, C. Goedelt; *Consul General in London*, James Jackson; *Consul at Amsterdam*, Herman Hessie; *Consul at Sierra Leone*, Moses S. Boyle.

Appointments under the new act creating a "*Board of Trade*" and "*Shipping Masters*," and the act reorganizing the Treasury Department:

Board of Trade.—President, Hon. D. B. Warner; Secretary, J. E. Moore, (Moore & Son;) Treasurer, J. T. Dimery, (Sherman & Dimery.)

Bassa County.—Vice President, J. L. Crusoe, (Crusoe & Bro.;) Secretary, H. J. Neyle; Treasurer, Edward Liles.

Sinoe County.—Vice President, Josiah Neyle; Secretary, S. H. Crayton; Treasurer, J. G. Monger.

Cape Palmas.—Vice President, R. S. McGill, (McGill & Bro.;) Secretary, J. T. Adams; Treasurer, J. T. Gibson.

Shipping Masters.—Montserrado, B. P. Yates; Grand Bassa, John Marshall; Sinoe, J. G. Monger; Maryland, R. S. McGill.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.—*Register*, William A. Johnson.

Commissioners of Education.—Montserrado, Rev. A. F. Russell; Grand Bassa, Hon. S. S. Herring; Sinoe, J. G. Monger; Maryland, J. W. Cooper.—*The Republican*.

PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS OF LIBERIA.

REPORT OF CAPTAIN SHUFELDT, U. S. N.

U. S. S. PLYMOUTH,

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *March 26, 1873.*

HON. GEORGE M. ROBESON, *Secretary of the Navy.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit to the Department the following report, as the result of the visit of the Plymouth to Monrovia.

There has been no American man-of-war here since 1868: our arrival, therefore, was both unexpected and gratifying. The Liberians are essentially American in feeling, yet they find themselves at present being gradually

shut in and circumscribed by the ever-increasing extension of British power upon this Coast.

A boundary difficulty on their Northwestern frontier, arising out of the establishment of English trading posts upon territory claimed by Liberia, from which has resulted onerous demands by the English Government upon the treasury, has also had the effect of weakening the prestige of the Republic among the natives, by leading them to believe themselves more under the protection of England than subject to the laws of a nation too weak and too little respected to enforce its authority. It is for these reasons, among many others, that the Liberians have felt the need of the *quasi* protection which the presence of our ships-of war had formerly given them.

But perhaps nothing would add more to the strength and well-being of this Americo-African Republic than the establishment of steam communication between it and the mother country. A connection thus sustained would have an important bearing upon our own political and commercial necessities, and create the one thing needful to the progress of this country: for I am fully convinced that immigration, with a moderate amount of capital, is all that is now required to place Liberia upon a permanent footing and to insure an increasing prosperity.

This young nation, weak by virtue of its birth and inheritance, is essentially an American outpost upon the frontiers of barbarism, and it deserves on this account the fostering care of the American people. It is struggling against a thousand adverse circumstances—ignorance and poverty within, heathenism without—and yet it appears to receive from us but little private sympathy and no public aid.

Liberia seems at present politically quiet. President Roberts, whose term of office will expire in January next, has been nominated and will probably be re-elected.

I have the honor to enclose herewith an exhibit of the commerce of the port of Monrovia for the last fiscal year. From this it will be seen that a fair proportion of the trade is with the United States; and that coffee and sugar, destined no doubt to become the staple products of the country, are beginning to be exported.

I am informed that the people of Liberia are turning their attention to agriculture with good results. There are at present five steam sugar-mills in operation on the St. Paul River. The fertility of the soil is beyond question.

An exploring party, conducted by the President himself, through Bassa County, has just returned to Monrovia, and reports favorably of the large mineral resources of that district.

Education is in rather a languishing condition from the want of means; but there is good reason to believe that there is an increasing desire on the part of the aborigines to acquire knowledge and to advance toward civilization.

After an interval of twenty-six years since I first visited Monrovia, I do not find as much progress as I hoped for; but there are no evidences of retro-

gression, and this is in itself proof that this people has secured too firm a foothold upon African soil ever to be expelled. The idea of Christian civilization is too firmly planted here to be uprooted.

President Roberts entertained the officers of the Plymouth and myself. Two of the Ex-Presidents and the members of the Cabinet were present at a dinner given to us by Mr. and Mrs. Roberts. A passage in this ship as far as Cape Palmas was offered to the President, but declined, for the reason that he is about to embark for England on public business.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. W. SHUFELDT, *Captain.*

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is an aggregate statement of the imports and exports of the port of Monrovia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1872:

	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
England.....	\$47,636 62	\$67,813 82
United States.....	28,126 02	31,144 55
Hamburg.....	87,555 34	23,863 55
Rotterdam.....	34,480 93	16,559 80
Sierra Leone.....	221 60
Cape Coast Castle.....	5,300 00
Total.....	\$118,998 91	\$139,655 72

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN HENRY ADAMS.

The writer of the following letter embarked last November in charge of a company of emigrants from Hawkinsville, Georgia:

CAPE PALMAS, MARYLAND Co.,
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, *Feb. 25, 1873.*

DEAR SIR: I am happy to have the privilege of writing you. I arrived here on the 14th of January of the present year; and I have been well, and still am well, with the exception of two or three days. All of the emigrants are getting along well with the fever, and all are very well satisfied so far, excepting a few, who do not want to work. I have been about eight miles in the interior, and find it to be a great country. We had a most excellent passage out, and enjoyed ourselves splendidly. I am more than happy to tell you that this is the country for me, and I feel more than satisfied. I have gained more than ten pounds in weight since I came here. I am going to do all I can to get my people to this country, and I will be thankful for you to aid me as much as you can in this matter. I find there have been many false reports about Liberia. I have proved all your words to be true, and all you told me to be just so, with many other good things.

Yours, truly,

JOHN HENRY ADAMS.

DOES THE CAUSE OF COLONIZATION GAIN GROUND?

The present REPOSITORY contains cheering evidence that Liberia is gaining ground. The annual message of President Roberts affords information in this regard that is valuable and encouraging. We are thus assured "that the improved state of the finances has greatly facilitated all branches of trade and industrial pursuits;" that "at present the agricultural and commercial interests of the country indicate a degree of prosperity and enlargement particularly gratifying;" and that the "native population is making encouraging advances under the fostering operations of our civil and religious institutions."

Many of the reported proceedings of the last Legislature of Liberia are not only deserving of praise, but they also indicate substantial progress. An act gives L. K. Crocker, a Christian native, three hundred acres of land for himself and others of the Bassa tribe. Another is to stimulate and reward the cultivation of coffee; while the acts to organize a Board of Trade, and for the appointment of Shipping Masters—the former intended to develop the commerce of the interior, and make it permanent and profitable, and the latter to protect the Kroomen and industrious natives—cannot but produce valuable results. The appointments authorized by these laws, with those for Commissioners of Education, made by President Roberts and confirmed by the Senate, comprise the best men of the Republic.

In the official report of Captain Shufeldt, U. S. N., kindly made public by the Secretary of the Navy, will be found the assurance of an intelligent and impartial witness, that the young nation is gaining ground; and that "immigration, with a moderate amount of capital, is all that is now required to place Liberia upon a permanent footing and to insure an increasing prosperity."

The work of the American Colonization Society is prospering, and capable of indefinite enlargement. It needs annually increasing funds for frequent expeditions, and additional means for special wants, namely: for exploring the interior, opening inland settlements, building roads, and establishing and supporting schools.

There were some three thousand applicants on the 1st of

January for passage to Liberia, and several hundred have since applied to the Society for the opportunity to emigrate. They are all self-moved, and consist generally of the better portion of the colored population. The leader of a party in Florida, is stated to be a licensed preacher in the Methodist Church; and the principal man of a company in Georgia, is reported to be the pastor of a large Baptist congregation. The sum of fifty dollars will pay the passage of an emigrant, and fifty more will make provision for food and shelter for six months. Every family receives twenty-five acres of land as a gift.

The conviction is gaining ground, that the principal agents for the Christian civilization of Africa and the development of her resources must be her own children, returned after their long exile to her territories, instructed and elevated by the knowledge of our arts and liberty, and enlightened by true religion. To enable the Society to meet the demands upon it, the appeal is made for contributions, and the hope is cherished that the clergy will call the attention of their people to its cheering aspects and urgent wants, and that collections will be made in the churches of all denominations on or about the FOURTH OF JULY. Let every friend of the cause, every patriot, and every Christian, come forward to its aid; and thus send new joy and hope to the Liberia settlements, and through them to millions as yet unvisited by the reviving voice and influences of Christianity.

GERARD RALSTON, ESQ.

It is with a feeling of personal bereavement that we record the death of this excellent and beloved fellow-worker for Africa, who died at Pontywall, Talgarte, South Wales, England, the residence of his son, on the 25th of March. We are informed, that "he returned from a fortnight's visit to London on the 21st, and seemed much reduced in strength and very feeble, which he insisted on was caused by over-fatigue. He was persuaded to remain in bed the next day, and from that time became weaker, and passed away on the evening of the 25th, gently and without pain."

The deceased was the fourth son of Robert Ralston, Esq., an early friend and Vice President of the American Colonization Society, and was the last male survivor of one generation of a distinguished Philadelphia family. He was born in that city in 1798. Nearly forty years ago he visited England as a member of the mercantile firm of A. & G. Ralston, and though he never returned to the land of his birth, he kept thoroughly familiar with its affairs, and constantly evinced a feeling of sympathy and love for it and its citizens, many of whom were welcomed and hospitably entertained by him in London.

Mr. Ralston took a warm interest and a leading part in the elevation of the colored race and of Africa. He was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, which was organized in 1826, and not only continued active in its management while in Philadelphia, but he also contributed frequently and liberally to its treasury.

But it was especially as Consul-General of Liberia, in London, that he became widely known and esteemed, and his labors were important and valuable. Was that Republic to be formally received into the family of nations, a treaty of amity and commerce to be negotiated, a postal arrangement to be effected, or a correspondence in its behalf to be conducted, Mr. Ralston promptly appeared and ably acted: and he probably signed more documents of this public and important character, as the representative of Liberia, than any of the distinguished men with whom he was thus brought in contact.

Deeply imbued with the conviction that God's plan for the Christian civilization of Africa is through the agency of the American Colonization Society and Liberia, Mr. Ralston contributed his time, talents, money, and influence, with marked disinterestedness, to this end, from early youth to advanced age. Kind in spirit, gentle in manner, with much of quiet energy, he was successful in his efforts. His loss, which will be felt in Europe, America, and in Liberia, falls on us with the accumulated force of long years of common struggles and common hopes.

This is no mere obituary. It is the outbursting and unregulated flow of emotions, kindled by many happy reminiscences, "by which he, being dead, yet speaketh."

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

LIBERIA METHODIST MISSION.—We have been made to rejoice on account of the manifestation of God's love. In Monrovia there are three persons waiting to be baptized. At Caldwell, which church is old and has many disadvantages, there are twelve. The brethren there have erected a house of worship, and are now doing very well. At New Georgia eighteen persons were baptized a few Sabbaths ago. There are also seven at Freeman station, waiting for the same holy rite to be performed. The most of these converts are natives and half-civilized Congoes.

OPENINGS FOR MISSIONS.—Rev. Albert Bushnell sends interesting information concerning the probable openings for missionary work in the interior of the country, entering by the Ugobai and the Congo Rivers, both south of Gaboon. He had lately met with two Englishmen who had acquired considerable personal knowledge of the subject, one of them having gone up the Ugobai nearly three hundred miles. He found there a fine country, quite free from the Mangrove marshes of the Coast, and the people were friendly. Mr. Bushnell makes an earnest plea for more missionaries to occupy new posts; and he thinks some of the young men, converts connected with the church of Gaboon, could, under suitable direction, be of much service in this inland work.

THE IBAMI PEOPLE.—Some explorations beyond Old Calabar, on the West African Coast, were made last fall by Rev. Samuel H. Edgerly, of the United Presbyterian (Scotch) Mission. Journeying from eighty to one hundred miles north of Creek Town, his station on the Calabar River, Mr. Edgerly found a group of villages, the headquarters of the Ibami and Uyanga clans. It had been supposed in the region of Calabar that the Ibami people came from Akuna-Runa, about a day's journey westward of Ibami and Uyanga; but the King of the clans asserts that there is no blood connection between the tribe of Akuna-Runa and his own, nor do they understand each other's language. The Ibami and Uyanga lie between the Inokon Colony to the west, and Ikpofia to the east. Next to the Ikpofia are the Gedi, a branch of the Ibami. The Ikpofia were entirely extinct, disowned by the Gedi, who lived nearest them, as well as by the Inokon and the Ekoi, who lie south. Mr. Edgerly found the natives eager to welcome white men; and he proposes that Uyanga be occupied as a central station by a missionary, and that teachers be scattered about the neighboring villages. Three children of the King alluded to accompanied the missionary to Urvet, about forty miles south of their home, there to live with the teachers; and the King promised to send children from his tribe to the Mission in Calabar.

SIR BARTLE FRERE'S MISSION.—A dispatch from Bombay says Sir Bartle Frere's mission was well received at Muscat, and the result of his efforts has been, that Syud Turki has signed a treaty, in which the latter undertakes to forbid the importation of slaves, and declares free all negroes and other

bondsmen hereafter arriving in the Territory of Oman. By the provisions of this treaty he likewise agrees to put down all public slave-marts, and any one who may be proved to have imported slaves will be amenable to the law. Similar engagements have been also entered into with Sherks and Macullah, on the Sadramaunt Coast. The Political Resident at Bushire will take all precautions on the Arabian shore of the Persian Gulf.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN EGYPT.—The resources of Egypt, especially its production of cotton, have been generally but little understood, and consequently the natural wealth of the country has not been appreciated. The crop for the past year is estimated at 200,000,000 pounds. The Egyptian Government, fully impressed with the importance of the cotton crop to Egypt's prosperity, is turning its attention to the improvement of the cotton lands: every year opening new channels to facilitate irrigation, employing steam-pumps for that purpose, and doing all in its power to make the cotton crop a source of continual prosperity.

Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

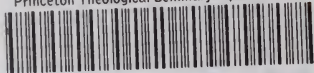
From the 20th of April, to the 20th of May, 1873.

MASSACHUSETTS.		NEW JERSEY	
By Rev. D. C. Haynes, (40.60)		By Rev. Dr. Orcutt, (\$105.00.)	
<i>Boston</i> —Hon. B. R. Curtis, \$25;		<i>Trenton</i> —B. Gummere, \$20; Judge	
Hon. B. F. Thomas, \$10	35 00	Nixon, P. P. Dunn, C. J. Far-	
<i>Harvard</i> —Add'l, by Rev. A. E.		rell, J. G. Brearley for 3d Presb.	
Tracy	5 60	Ch., ea. \$10; J. S. Chambers,	
	40 60	Mrs. T. J. Stryker, ea. \$5; Cash,	
CONNECTICUT.		25 cts	70 25
By Rev. D. C. Haynes, (\$281.25.)		<i>Camden</i> —A. W. Markley	10 00
<i>Norwich</i> —Hon. W. A. Bucking-		<i>Orange</i> —George J. Ferry	20 00
ham, Dan'l Coit, Chas. Csgood,		<i>Paterson</i> —James Booth	5 00
J. M. Huntington, L. W. Car-			105 00
roll, ea. \$10; C. C. Davis, \$6; E.		PENNSYLVANIA.	
W. Beckwith, Mrs. Williams,		<i>Upland</i> —Mrs. Rev. Dr. Jas. M.	
ea. \$5; Individuals, \$6.75	72 75	Pendleton	50 00
<i>New Haven</i> —R. S. Fellowes, \$30,		<i>New Castle</i> —Mrs. M. A. McMillan	20 00
Elihu Atwater, Hon. James E.			70 00
English, ea. \$20; Mrs. W. F.		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.	
Fellowes, \$15; Chas. Atwater,		<i>Washington</i> —Miscellaneous	504 73
Misses Geary, Mrs. Seaton and		FOR REPOSITORY.	
Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Street,		NEW HAMPSHIRE — <i>Hancock</i> —An-	
Prof. E. E. Salisbury, N. Peck,		na Tuttle, to Jan 1, 1874	2 00
S. Brace, O. B. North, Henry		CONNECTICUT — <i>Glastonbury</i> —Rev.	
White, ea. \$10; Chas. L. Chap-		l. W. Plummer, to July 1, 1873.	5 00
lin, Morris Tyler, C. M. Inger-		PENNSYLVANIA — <i>Reading</i> —Mrs.	
soll, Eli Whitney, ea. \$5; Dr.		V. S. Witherspoon, to Jan. 1,	
Bishop, \$3.50; J. Ingersoll, C.		1874, \$3; <i>Philadelphia</i> —J. B.	
B. Whittelsey, ea. \$3; H. N.		Ross, to July 1, 1873, \$1.50; Ez-	
Whittelsey, E. B. Bowdich, ea.		ra T. Cresson, to May 1, 1874, \$1.	5 50
\$2	208 50	GEORGIA — <i>Augusta</i> —Rev. A. A.	
	281 25	Johnson, to Jan. 1, 1874	50
NEW YORK.		LOUISIANA — <i>Athens</i> —Geo. Lewis,	
By Rev. Dr. Orcutt, (\$390.00.)		to Jan. 1, 1874	1 00
<i>New York City</i> —Miss C. L. Wolfe,		TENNESSEE — <i>Philadelphia</i> —Solo-	
\$100; Jonathan Sturges, \$50;		mon Bogart, to Jan. 1, 1874	1 00
Miss Mary Bronson, \$25	175 00		
<i>Brooklyn</i> —Collection "Reformed		Repository	15 00
(Dutch) Ch., on the Heights,"		Donations	886 85
<i>Poughkeepsie</i> —Henry D. Young,		Miscellaneous	504 73
in books	25 00		
	390 00	Total	\$1,406 58

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